

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Polish-German Frontier Area: Lomnica PGR Team/
Agricultural Labor and Salaries/WOP Garrisons/New
Agricultural Regulations/Mine-Sweeping Activities

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1. "The following information dates through August [redacted] 25X1X
2. "Only very few individual farmers are still living in the area located directly on the borderline between Zgorzelec (German: Goerlitz) and Sieniewka (German: Klein-Schneidau) at the southernmost end of the Polish-German frontier-line on the Neisse River. In this way, it is typical of other frontier segments. The majority of localities have been arranged as either PGRs or kolkhozes.
- "The various PGRs of this area are attached to the PGR-team of Lomnica (German: Lomnitz) with its management seated in Kunow (German: Kuhna). This PGR-team has the number '42' and consists of the following estates: [See map available on loan from CIA Map Library.]
 - a. Czerwona Woda [Wola?] (German: Rothwasser)
 - b. Lasow or Lasowa (German: Liessa); primarily operating as a chicken-farm with specialization in incubator installations. (Lasow is supplied with power by a high-tension cable from the German side.)
 - c. Jedrzychowice (German: Mennersdorf), a model PGR for the entire team.
 - d. Lagow (German: Leopoldshayn). On this PGR, located in a suburb of Zgorzelec, vegetables are the main branch of cultivation. The majority of the PGR laborers here are Greek females. (Zgorzelec has had one of the largest settlements of former Markos soldiers and their families.)

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- e. Dluzyna (German: Langenau)
 - f. Jerzmanki (German: Hermsdorf). TOR (the technical service station for agriculture) is located here, and in the vicinity of the railway station are the CPN warehouses (State-owned enterprise dealing in lubricants) from where all surrounding PGRs are supplied with both oil and gasoline.
 - g. Kunow (German: Kuhna); also in this locality a number of Greek laborers are employed. In this PGR is stationed a central blacksmith workshop for the service of the surrounding PGRs.
 - h. Kozmin (German: Kosma). As this estate was badly damaged during World War II, the fields of this PGR are now worked and cultivated by a laborer's brigade from Kunow.
 - i. Lomnica (German: Lomnitz) is one of the largest PGRs of the described area.
 - j. Radomierzycze (German: Radmeritz), an estate with a large castle and park situated partly on a Niesse River island.
 - k. Kostrzyna (German: Trattlau)
 - l. Dzialoszyn (German: Koenigsbain)
 - m. Zatonie (German: Seitendorf); the PGR covers the western part of this village and stretches for over a few kilometers. The locality is inhabited by many workers from the nearby brown coal mine.
 - n. Turoszow (German: Tuerchau), which specializes in sugarbeet plantation.
 - o. Rybarzowice (German: Reibersdorf); primarily specializing in horticulture and hot-house cultivation, as well as plants from which oil and fat are obtained. Last year /1952/, sheep-breeding was started but ended as a complete failure as 300 out of 500 sheep (which was the stock at the beginning) died from lack of proper care.
 - p. Bialopole (German: Sommerau); a sugar beet plantation.
 - q. Bogatynia (German: Reichenau); a small PGR specializing in vegetable and fruit cultivation. This PGR is on the outskirts of the small locality which is known for its traditional textile industry (main line: carpet-manufacture).
 - r. Kopaczew (German: Oberullersdorf) sugar beet plantations.
4. "The Lomnica PGR-team covers an area stretching for over 45 kilometers from north to south. Although it is one of the largest teams in Poland, it is also one of the poorest. In 1952, the team was in the red for approximately eight million zlotys. Such outstandingly large losses can be accounted for by:
- a. exorbitant and poorly-considered investments. An example of this is the strawberry cultivation in Rybarzowice. It was necessary to plough this over after a few months on account of careless weeding. A second example is the introduction of sheep-breeding (also in Rybarzowice). The Merino-type sheep were put under the care of unskilled shepherds with the result that the majority of the sheep died for lack of proper care. A third example is the new modern pigsty for breeding swine which was established in Bialopole. The majority of these swine died from lack of proper fodder.
 - b. lack of manpower. On the average, there is only one permanent laborer allocated to each approximately 30-hectare land-stretch in each estate. This must be considered as completely inadequate. The Greek laborers, the brigades, the SP /Sluzba Polsee/ Communist youth organization or the so-called 'voluntary brigades' recruited from workers or soldiers are not sufficient to overcome this lack of manpower.

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5. "Although there are actually no fields left uncultivated, the farming produce is rather poor as it lacks care in cultivation and breeding. The main reason for the shortage of laborers is the very low wage scale. For example, a field laborer receives around 250 zlotys a month; a laborer working with a horse in a field around 300 to 350 zlotys a month; a groom or a cow-keeper 450 zlotys a month.
6. "The only better-paid groups in the PGRs are tractor-drivers, who receive around 900 zlotys a month. In 1952, an allowance, to be paid in addition to the wages, of 34 kgs of wheat per capita every quarter was introduced. However, this wheat could be distributed to the laborers only after the obligatory quota to the State warehouses had been delivered. As a further inducement to laborers, mess-canteens have now been organized on the PGRs, where, at rather low cost, food is served three times a day.
7. "There are no industries which are related to agriculture in the entire area. Products which can be used in industry are exported to other areas. The remaining commodities are utilized as supplies for four larger centers in the area:
 - a. Zgorzelec (district town which has a strong WOP garrison)
 - b. Bogatynia (textile industry)
 - c. Turow (brown coal mine)
 - d. Sulikow (German: Schoenberg) (basalt quarry).
8. "As the area is on the frontier-line, strong WOP posts have been set up in the following localities:
 - a. Zgorzelec (German: Goerlitz)
 - b. Kopaczow (German: Oberullersdorf)
 - c. Bialopole (German: Sommerau)
 - d. Opolno Zdroj (German: Bad Oppelsdorf)
 - e. Sieniawka (German: Kleinschoenau)
 - f. Turow brown coal mines.

"Up to 1950 there was a health resort in Opolno Zdroj. Because of the proximity of this locality to the Czech-Polish frontier and because numerous visitors used it as an escape exit, the health resort was closed and a strong WOP detachment took over the quarters.
9. "A new order was issued in 1953 to observe special precautions during the harvest. Stalks of corn are to be cut short above the ground and not bent. Only very limited amounts of straw may be kept, in line with this new regulation, on the PGRs for winter use. Nearly all of the straw crop has to be delivered to the Army. Along with this regulation, new directions for horse-feeding (as well as for other cattle) were issued for this winter. Horses will receive instead of straw the stems of rapeseed. Under no circumstances shall ~~oats~~ be used as fodder for horses except on Sundays. Only in cases where horses spend a day under very hard laboring conditions may they receive some oats as an added ingredient to their fodder. Throughout the winter, oats may be supplied for horses only on exceptional occasions. Bran is reserved, under this new regulation, exclusively for swine-breeding.
10. "On the frontier segment mine fields are still prevalent. In the middle of 1952, a detachment of the First Engineering Regiment from Gorzow was detailed to clean up the Lugnica (German: Lugnitz) area. At least 400 mines were found on the 200-meter wide and three kilometer-long belt. At present, the area is still covered with a number of 'attention' signs as warnings. Soldiers who spent around four weeks

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in this terrain received a special 'premium' of 10 zlotys (equivalent to 2½ packs of cigarettes) for this month's stay in the danger area. During this assignment, one soldier was killed.

"A Soviet-type apparatus for mine sweeping was used on this detail."

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[Available on loan from the CIA Map Library is a map of the Lomnica PGR-team area and the estates comprising the PGR-team. This map is not drawn to scale and there is no accompanying legend. To borrow map call -
Map call number - 85645-R.]

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